

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 DOE-15 H-01 INR-10 INT-05
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TAGS: PORG, CO
SUBJ: 33RD UNGA: US STRATEGY AND OBJECTIVES

REF: A) STATE 225331, B) BOGOTA 9039

1. ON SEPTEMBER 26, POL COUNSELOR SIMMS CALLED ON ACTING UNDER SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS TOBON AT FOREIGN MINISTRY TO DISCUSS ECONOMIC ISSUES ON UNGA. AFTER SIMMS HAD MADE HIS PRESENTATION, TOBON SIAD HE PREFERRED TO RESERVE COMMENT UNTIL HE HAD HAD OPPORTUNITY TO CONSIDER US POSITIONS MORE CAREFULLY AND TO CONSULT WITH HIS STAFF AND SUGGESTED HE AND SIMMS MEET AGAIN THE FOLLOWING DAY.

2. AT MEETING HELD LATE YESTERDAY (AT WHICH SIMMS ACCOMPANIED BY TWO OTHER OFFICERS POL SECTION AND TOBON BY FOUR MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF), ACTING UNDER SECRETARY AND ASSISTANTS EXPOUNDED THEIR VIEWS AT SOME LENGTH. TOBON NOTED THAT COMMENTS MADE BY HIMSELF AND OTHERS REFLECTED THINKING IN UNDER SECRETARIAT FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND WERE BASED PRIMARILY ON CONSIDERATION OF ECONOMIC FACTORS INVOLVED; FINAL DECISIONS, HE STRESSED, WOULD BE MADE AT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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A HIGHER LEVEL AND ON POLITICAL AS WELL AS ECONOMIC GROUNDS.

3. COMMENTS BY TOBON ET AL FOLLOW:

A) GENERAL - GOC BELIEVES THAT THE NORTH/SOUTH DIALOGUE SHOULD BE CARRIED ON IN ALL POSSIBLE FORA AND THAT SERIOUS EFFORT MUST BE MADE TO ENSURE THAT IT LEADS TO CONCRETE RESULTS. GOC IS

INTERESTED IN NEGOTIATION, NOT CONFRONTATION, AND, WHILE IT DID NOT SUBSCRIBE TO NAM FOREIGN MINISTERS' CALL FOR CONTINUED NEGOTIATIONS, SINCE COLOMBIA IS NOT A MEMBER OF NAM, IT SUPPORTS THE NAM COMMITMENT. IT IS CONCERNED, HOWEVER, BY TENDENCY ON PART OF INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES TO TAKE DECISIONS AFFECTING UNDER-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES--FOR EXAMPLE, WITH REGARD TO MONETARY MATTERS -- WITHOUT CONSULTING THE LATTER AND BY THE INCREASING TREND TOWARD PROTECTIONISM. INsofar AS THE COMMON FUND IS CONCERNED, GOC DOES NOT ENTIRELY SHARE VIEWS OF EITHER G-77 OR DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. EMPHASIS ON ASSISTANCE TO LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES SEEMS NOT ALTOGETHER JUSTIFIED TO GOC: NOT BEING ONE OF THESE, COLOMBIA LACKS ACCESS TO CONCESSIONAL FINANCING, YET, AT THE SAME TIME, FINDS PROSPECTS FOR ITS EXPORTS ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY TRADE BARRIERS. LIKE US, GOC FAVORS EXPANSION OF VOLUNTARY UN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS THAT HAVE DEMONSTRATED THEIR EFFECTIVENESS BUT BELIEVES THAT ELIMINATION OF ANY EXISTING PROGRAMS SHOULD BE PRECEDED BY CAREFUL STUDY TO ENSURE THAT THEY DO NOT, IN FACT, SERVE A USEFUL PURPOSE. GOC ALSO FAVORS MAXIMUM UTILIZATION OF NATIVES OF COUNTRIES BENEFITTING BY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS IN ADMINISTERING SUCH PROGRAMS.

B) ENERGY - GOC SUPPORTS PROPOSAL FOR HOLDING UN CONFERENCE ON NEW AND RENEWABLE SOURCES OF ENERGY AND CONCURS IN 1981 DATE RECOMMENDED BY UN SECRETARY GENERAL.

C) AGRICULTURE - GOC WELCOMES JUNE 1978 RECOMMENDATIONS OF WORLD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOOD COUNCIL CALLING FOR INCREASED FOOD PRODUCTION, EXPANSION OF STORAGE FACILITIES, AND ELIMINATION OF TRADE BARRIERS AFFECTING FOOD SHIPMENTS. A NATIONAL FOOD PROGRAM BENEFITTING POOREST SECTORS OF COLOMBIAN POPULATION HAS BEEN IN EFFECT FOR A NUMXER OF YEARS. SINCE TAKING OFFICE IN AUGUST, PRESIDENT TURBAY HAS REPEATEDLY LAID STRESS ON AUGMENTING COLOMBIA'S AGRICULTURAL OUTPUT. PROTECTIONIST POLICIES FOLLOWED BY INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES--FOR EXAMPLE, WITH RESPECT TO SUGAR--ARE OF CONCERN TO GOC.

D) TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS DECADE IN AFRICA - THIS SUBJECT IS OF ONLY LIMITED INTEREST TO GOC, WHICH HAS NO POSITION ON IT AT PRESENT TIME.

E) IDS - GOC BELIEVES THAT GENERAL GUIDELINES WERE ESTABLISHED IN INITIAL RESOLUTION SETTING UP MACHINERY AND THAT ANY STRATEGY THAT MAY BE DEVELOPED SHOULD BE RESPONSIVE TO TERMS OF THAT RESOLUTION.

F) COW - GOC IS VERY MUCH INTERESTED IN USING COW TO EXPAND AND IMPROVE NORTH/SOUTH DIALOGUE. WHILE IT IS OBVIOUS COW SHOULD NOT USURP FUNCTIONS OF OTHER EXISTING ORGANIZATIONS, NEITHER SHOULD IT BE SIMPLY A FORUM FOR EXCHANGING IDEAS. AS ALREADY NOTED, GOC

BELIEVES IT IS IMPORTANT THAT CONCRETE RESULTS BE REALIZED AS A
CONSEQUENCE OF DIALOGUE.

4. TOBON'S CHIEF, AMBASSADOR ZEA, IS NOW IN NEW YORK, SERVING
AS A PERSONAL ASSISTANT TO UNGA PRESIDENT LIEVANO. IT IS LIKELY
THAT SHE WILL PLAY A ROLE IN DETERMINING FINAL GOC POSITION ON AT
LEAST SOME OF THE ECONOMIC ISSUES ON THE AGENDA.
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